

1997

APPENDIX I

PATROL DOG CERTIFICATION STANDARDS/PROFICIENCY LEVELS

1. The minimum/post certification standards listed below must be met prior to actual use in a patrol section. Military Working Dogs (MWDs) must be proficient in these tasks to be considered a safe, reliable and credible asset. Use successive approximation and extinction training to shape the MWDs behavior. Security supervisors should ensure that MWDs are tolerant of surrounding personnel to prevent safety mishaps. MWDs will not be trained to attack without command (search and re-attack).

a. Level Three (Minimum Certification Standards). These standards are the basic certification requirements for dogs assigned to a command less than 6 months.

(1) Obedience Commands. From the heel position and at least 10 feet away, the dog must perform "SIT," "DOWN," "HEEL," and "STAY" on command by the handler. Only one physical correction per four commands is allowed.

NOTE: The "SIT," "DOWN," and "HEEL" commands are semi-critical tasks; however, the "STAY" command is a critical task due to controlled aggression safety requirements.

(2) Obedience Course (Non-critical). On command, the dog (on-leash) must be able to negotiate the obedience course at a moderate pace.

NOTE: MWDs 8 years of age and older, are exempt from the obedience course.

(3) Controlled Aggression. The five phases of controlled aggression are as follows:

(a) False Run (Critical). On command of "STAY," the dog must remain in the heel/sit position, off-leash, and not attack when approached by a person. The person, wearing a hidden arm protector, approaches no closer than 4 feet from the dog and returns to the starting position. The arm protector must not

touch the dog or be used to provoke the dog to make an incorrect response.

(b) Attack (Critical). The dog must stay in the heel/sit position, off-leash, and on the command of "GET HIM" attack a person wearing a hidden arm protector from at least 40 feet away. The dog must continue the attack, holding for at least 15 seconds, and releasing on the "OUT" command.

(c) Stand-Off (Critical). On the "OUT" command (after being sent to attack), the MWD must cease pursuit of the agitator and return to the handler on the "HEEL" command. On hearing the "OUT" command, the agitator must cease all movement raising his/her hands.

(d) Search and Call-By (Critical). On the "STAY" command, the dog must remain in the down/sit position while the handler searches a person. After the search, the handler moves to a position about 2 feet to the right and 10 feet to the rear of the person, commanding the dog to "HEEL." The dog must go to the heel position without attacking.

(e) Escort (Semi-critical). The handler and dog (off-leash) escort the person for at least 10 yards. The dog must not attack the decoy unless commanded by the handler.

(4) Building Search (Critical). The dog, while on-leash, must locate and respond to one person in a building. The dog must not attack the person unless commanded by the handler.

(5) Patrolling and Intruder Detection (Critical). The dog, while on-leash, must detect a person by scent, sound, and sight. The following criteria apply:

(a) Detect, respond, and follow to source, the scent of a person hidden 50 yards upwind.

(b) Detect, respond, and follow to source the sound made by a person 100 feet downwind.

(c) Detect, respond, and pursue a person in plain view 100 feet downwind.

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(d) Pursue and attack (on command only) during intruder detection.

(6) Vehicle Patrol (Semi-critical). The dog must ride calmly inside a security vehicle displaying no aggression toward passengers/driver.

(7) Small Arms Fire (Critical). The dog must not be adversely affected by or become uncontrollable during gunfire by the handler/back-up personnel. It must hold its position during all gunfire; however, it must not be deterred from attacking on command.

(8) Tracking (Non-critical). Dogs demonstrating a potential in tracking should be identified/trained, if command mission dictates. Tracking certification will be under paragraph 1b(8). Contact the Law Enforcement and Physical Security Assistance Team for guidance.

b. Level Five (Post Certification Standards). Each MWD must meet and maintain post certification standards within 6 months of assignment to a command.

(1) Obedience Commands. From the heel position and at least 50 feet away, the dog must perform "SIT," "DOWN," "HEEL," and "STAY" on command by the handler. Only one correction per five commands is allowed. On the "STAY" command, the dog must remain in the sit/down position for at least 3 minutes.

NOTE: The "SIT," "DOWN," and "HEEL" commands are semi-critical tasks; however, the "STAY" command is a critical task due to controlled aggression safety requirements.

(2) Obedience Course (Non-critical). On command in the heel position, the dog (off-leash) must negotiate the obedience course at a moderate pace.

NOTE: MWDs 8 years of age or older, are exempt from the obedience course.

(3) Controlled Aggression. The following tasks should be conducted in all areas of the base using real life scenarios.

(a) False Run (Critical). On the "STAY" command, the dog must remain in the heel position (off-leash) and not attack when confronted by a group of at least two persons. Both persons, wearing concealed arm protectors, should approach no closer than 4 feet from the dog and return to the starting position. The MWD should not be touched/provoked, and no hostile gestures made toward the handler.

(b) Stand-Off (Critical). While on patrol the MWD team encounters a person who runs away when challenged by the handler. On the command of "GET HIM" the dog pursues the suspect. On the "OUT" command, the suspect stops all movement raising his/her hands. The dog must stop the pursuit and return to the handler on the "HEEL" command.

(c) Attack (Critical). After the "GET HIM" command, the suspect turns to meet the attacking dog. The decoy must be at least 40 feet away. The dog must bite the arm protector, hold for at least 15 seconds, release on the "OUT" command, and return to the handler at the "HEEL" command.

(d) Search and Call-By (Critical). On the "STAY" command, the dog must remain in the sit/down position, while the handler searches the suspect. After the search, the dog must return to the heel position on command without attacking.

(e) Escort (Semi-critical). With the dog in the heel position, the handler and dog must escort the suspect for at least 10 yards to an awaiting vehicle. The dog must stay in the heel position, off-leash, and not attack while the suspect is placed in the vehicle.

(4) Building Search (Critical). The dog, while on-leash, must locate and respond to three people in different locations. The dog must not attack unless commanded to do so.

(5) Patrolling and Intruder Detection (Critical). The dog, while on-leash, must detect a person by scent, sound, and sight. The following criteria applies:

(a) Detect, respond, and follow to source the scent of a person hidden 50 yards upwind.

(b) Detect, respond, and follow to source the sound made by a person 100 feet downwind.

(c) Detect, respond, and pursue a person in plain view 100 feet downwind.

(d) Pursue and attack (on command only) during intruder detection.

(6) Vehicle Patrol (Semi-critical). The dog must ride calmly in a security vehicle displaying no aggression toward passengers/driver. In addition, the handler must exhibit control over the MWD by demonstrating procedures for entering/exiting vehicle. Dogs will not be allowed to ride with their heads outside of the window.

(7) Small Arms Fire (Critical). The dog must not be adversely affected by or become uncontrollable during gunfire by the handler/back-up personnel. It must hold its position during all gunfire; however, it must not be deterred from attacking on command.

(8) Tracking Certification (Non-critical). If the command mission dictates, MWDs identified as potential trackers should receive the following training to meet the below certification standards:

(a) Short Track

(1) The dog must track fresh human scent for at least 100 yards from one point straight to another.

(2) The track should be laid downwind from the starting point.

(b) Intermediate Track

(1) The dog must track fresh human scent for at least 1/2 mile.

(2) The track should be laid perpendicular to the wind containing two turns made no more than a 45-degree angle.

(3) The dog should make some indication on articles placed by the decoy.

(c) Advanced Track

(1) The dog must track human scent, 1 to 2 hours old, for at least 1 mile.

(2) The dog should make some indication on articles dropped by the decoy.

(3) The track should be laid using multiple turns and at least two cross tracks.

2. The following levels are for advanced MWDs in preparing them to meet daily real-life situations in an effective and proficient manner. MWDs should be proficient at post certification standards prior to commencement of advanced training. Depending on the quality/quantity of training, the average time for patrol dogs to achieve the next higher level is 1 year.

a. Level Seven

(1) MWD remains in sit/down position during false run consisting of two decoys circling the MWD. The handler should be at least 6 feet from the dog.

(2) MWD performs a running stand-off. On the "OUT" command the dog ceases pursuit while the decoy continues to run from the dog. The dog returns to handler on "HEEL" command.

(3) On command, the MWD attacks and releases while the decoy continues agitation.

(4) When decoy breaks and runs during off-leash escort, MWD does not give chase during handler challenge "Halt or I'll release my dog."

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(5) Tolerant of excessive movement by decoy during search and call-by.

(6) On command, MWD heels on the right side of handler.

(7) MWD performs "COVER" command. On command, the dog and handler drop quickly to the ground in the prone position.

(8) If command mission requires, MWD performs a short track.

(9) If command mission requires, MWD crawls on command.

b. Level Nine

(1) On command, the MWD attacks and releases while decoy continues agitation. On the "OUT" command, MWD remains at the decoy in the sit/stay position.

(1) MWD escorts decoy that is making multiple turns, back to handler.

(3) MWD is tolerant of physical contact by handler/decoy, i.e., scuffling/fighting during apprehension.

(4) MWD performs obedience and confidence course from the heel right position.

(5) MWD performs "COVER" command during gunfire.

(6) If mission requires, MWD performs intermediate track.

c. Level Twelve

(1) Performs all tasks, including controlled aggression, from heel right position.

(2) MWD remains in down position during gunfire while handler, in the prone position, uses it as cover.

(3) If mission requires, MWD performs advanced track.